



IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. Canceled.
2. Canceled.
3. Canceled.
4. (Currently Amended) A multicast radio system comprising a master station and a plurality of slave stations, the master station comprising means to transmit data to the plurality of slave stations simultaneously, each slave station comprising means to receive the data and means for determining whether it requires retransmission of the data, wherein at least one slave station is in a first state and the other one or more slave station are in a second state, wherein the at least one slave station in the first state, if retransmission is not required, transmits a positive acknowledgement in a predetermined time slot which is substantially non-overlapping with any positive acknowledgement transmitted by any other slave station in the first state, wherein the other one or more each slave stations in the second state do not transmit a positive acknowledgement if retransmission is not required and transmits a negative acknowledgement if retransmission is required, wherein at least one negative acknowledgement transmitted by at least one slave station in the second

state is transmitted at least partially concurrently with at least one said predetermined time slot, and wherein the master station retransmits the data if it does not receive the positive acknowledgement from the other one or more of the slave stations in the first state or if the master station receives at least one negative acknowledgement, and if the validity of the data has not expired~~A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one of the plurality of slave stations is commanded into one of the first and second states by the master station, wherein the master station has means for assessing the quality of radio communication with each of the plurality of slave stations, and the at least one or each of the slave stations in the first state has or have respectively lower quality radio communication with the master station than the other one or more or each of the slave stations in the second state.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 4 ~~3~~, wherein at least one of the plurality of slave stations comprises means to adjust its transmitted power level under command of the master station.

6. Canceled.

7. (Currently Amended) A master radio station for use in a multicast radio network comprising a master station and a plurality of slave stations, the master station comprising means to command at least one of the plurality of slave stations to adopt a first state wherein the slave station in the first state transmits a positive acknowledgement in response to receiving data that the at

least one slave stations does not need to have retransmitted, means to command at least one other of the plurality of slave stations to adopt a second state wherein the slave station in the second state does not transmit a positive acknowledgement in response to receiving data that the slave station does not need to have retransmitted and transmits a negative acknowledgement in response to receiving data which the slave station needs to have retransmitted, means to instruct the at least one slave station in the first state of a time slot in which to transmit the positive acknowledgement such that positive acknowledgements transmitted by the slave stations of the first state are transmitted at substantially non-overlapping times, means to transmit data to the plurality of slave stations simultaneously, means to receive acknowledgements from the plurality of slave stations, and means to retransmit the data if the positive acknowledgement is not received from each of the slave stations in the first state or if at least one negative acknowledgement is received, and if the validity of the data has not expiredA master radio station as claimed in claim 6, further comprising means to assess the quality of radio communication with each of the plurality of slave stations and means to select the states of each of the plurality of slave stations such that the quality of communication with the at least one ~~or~~ each slave station in the first state is lower than the quality of communication with the ~~or~~ each slave station in the second state.

8. (Currently Amended) A master radio station as claimed in claim 7 ~~6~~, further comprising means to command a slave station to alter its transmitted power level.

9. Canceled.

10. Canceled.

11. Canceled.

12. Canceled.

13. Canceled.